

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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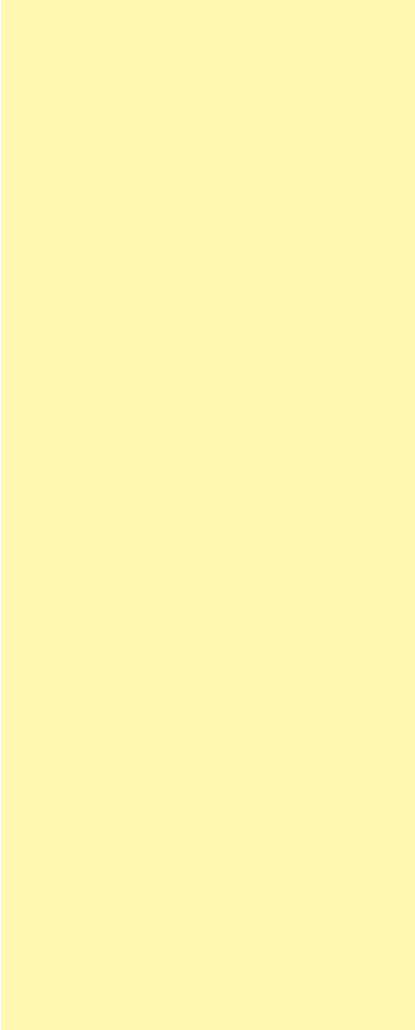
THURSDAY AUGUST 26, 2004

www.saipantribune.com 50¢

I N S I D E

See CHABA on Page 12

CAMPUS BULLETIN




See FOUL on Page 12

Local



MAZDA
CMYK
NEW!



The Saipan Tribune accepts unsolicited pictures of birthdays, weddings, baptisms, and other community and family events for free publication. Material submitted should be original and not copyrighted, in digital or print format. Must include a caption containing complete details (a description of the event, identities of the persons in the picture, the date, and the place), the name of the contributor, and a contact number. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to edit the caption, the date of publication and the date of the picture. Contributors can e-mail their submissions to contributions@saipantribune.net. To check if submissions are received, call 213-8337, 213-3448, or 213-8245.


CARS UNLIMITED




WEATHER FORECAST

PICTURE TIME: 1:00 AM., MARCH 9, 2004
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.


Fresh to strong trade winds across much of Micronesia converging into lighter winds near the Equator are producing scattered showers between the Equator and 8n from 130e to 153 and between the Equator and 6n from 160e to 180. A cold front stretches from 25n161e to 20n146e and continues as a shear line to 19n130e. Low- and mid-level clouds...light rain and showers associated this feature extend up to 200 miles north of the boundary. Trade wind convergence south of the cold front/shear line is producing low clouds and showers between 12n and 18n from 132e to 150e. This area includes the Mariana Islands.




SAIPAN AND TINIAN
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 15-20 mph. Highs near 87. Lows near 76.




GUAM AND ROTA
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 15-20 mph. Highs near 87. Lows near 76.




PALAU
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 15 kt.




POHNPEI
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 15 kt.




YAP AND ULITHI
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 15-20 kt.






















KOSRAE
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 10-15 kt.



CHUUK
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 15-20 kt.



MAJURO
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
Winds: East at 15-20 kt.

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
 Auckland	Sunny	71F (22C)	60F (16C)
 Beijing	Sunny	65F (18C)	48F (9C)
 Hong Kong	Sunny	74F (23C)	61F (16C)
 Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82F (28C)	68F (20C)
 London, England	Sunny	45F (7C)	30F (-1C)
 Los Angeles	Sunny	79F (26C)	59F (15C)
 Manila	Partly Cloudy	88F (31C)	73F (23C)
 Melbourne	Sunny	75F (24C)	59F (15C)
 Miami	Partly Cloudy	72F (22C)	54F (12C)
 New York City	Cloudy	40F (4C)	34F (1C)
 Osaka	Partly Cloudy	37F (3C)	25F (-4C)
 Paris	Partly Cloudy	38F (3C)	25F (-4C)
 Pusan	Partly Cloudy	53F (12C)	39F (4C)
 Rome	Cloudy	49F (9C)	30F (-1C)
 Salem, Oregon	Partly Cloudy	60F (16C)	40F (4C)
 San Francisco	Sunny	68F (20C)	52F (11C)
 Seoul	Partly Cloudy	47F (8C)	35F (2C)
 Tokyo, Japan	Partly Cloudy	42F (6C)	36F (2C)
 Washington, DC	Cloudy	45F (7C)	34F (1C)

SAIPANCELL
CMYK
8/23

Island Snapshots

PEACE VIGIL

Tinian Mayor Francisco M. Borja leads participants in the Candle Light Vigil held on Aug. 9 that began at the Gandhi-King-Ikeda Peace Gardens and ended at the Kammer Beach Main Pavilion. The event aimed to remember those who perished during the twin bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CANDLE LIGHT VIGIL

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the Candle Light Vigil on Tinian smile for the camera as they make their way from the Gandhi-King-Ikeda Peace Gardens to the Kammer Beach Main Pavilion. The event was held Aug. 9.



SILHOUETTE

LIBERTY DONES

The silhouette of this cleanup crew from the Department of Public Works stands in stark contrast to the gleam of sunshine that managed to pierce the clouds to spread its warmth on the Saipan lagoon.

SUDS FOR FUNDS

Members of Glushko's Academy of the Performing Arts' Teen Zone busy themselves cleaning cars and this huge delivery truck during a recently held car wash event dubbed "Suds for Funds." Shell Marianas organized the fundraiser, which was held at Shell's Airport Road station. The girls were able to raise \$225.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



DANCE FOR FUNDS

The Teen Zone performs a number during a break at a recently held car wash event dubbed Suds for Funds. Shell Marianas organized the fundraiser, which was held at Shell's Airport Road station. Teen Zone was organized by Glushko's Academy of the Performing Arts. The girls were able to raise \$225.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CLEANUP

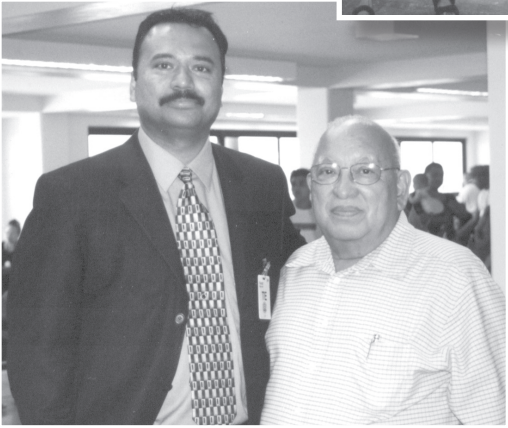
The Saipan Mayor's Office Community Service staff hustled early Monday to clear huge fallen trees and debris scattered along thoroughfares in the aftermath of Supertyphoon Chaba like the one shown in this photo taken on Chalan Tun Tomas P. Sablan in San Antonio.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CLEANUP CREW

U.S. Navy officers from the USS Vincennes spend their day on Aug. 20 helping the Mayor of Saipan renovate the former Northern Marianas College's gift shop at the Sugar King Memorial Estate Park as part of their community service to the people of Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



SECURITY SPECIALIST

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela meets with Ron Varghese, security specialist for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security during his visit to Saipan last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PREPARING FOR SONGDA

JOHN RAVELO

This Mobil gas station on the way up to Capitol Hill hunkers down in preparation for Typhoon Songda on Tuesday afternoon.



SVES SANDBAGS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In a desperate attempt to stem the flooding threat of Typhoon Songda, San Vicente Elementary School principal Janet Villagomez sits on DPW sandbags set against doors to SVES administrative offices even as Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Rep. Janet Maratita, who were shown published pictures from a previous flooding, promised to look into a more permanent solution to the perennial flooding at the school. Resigned but ready, Villagomez and vice principal James Rayphand (behind Maratita) deployed sandbags in critical areas to minimize damages should flooding occur Tuesday night.

Business

arc august
specials

mazda
cmyk

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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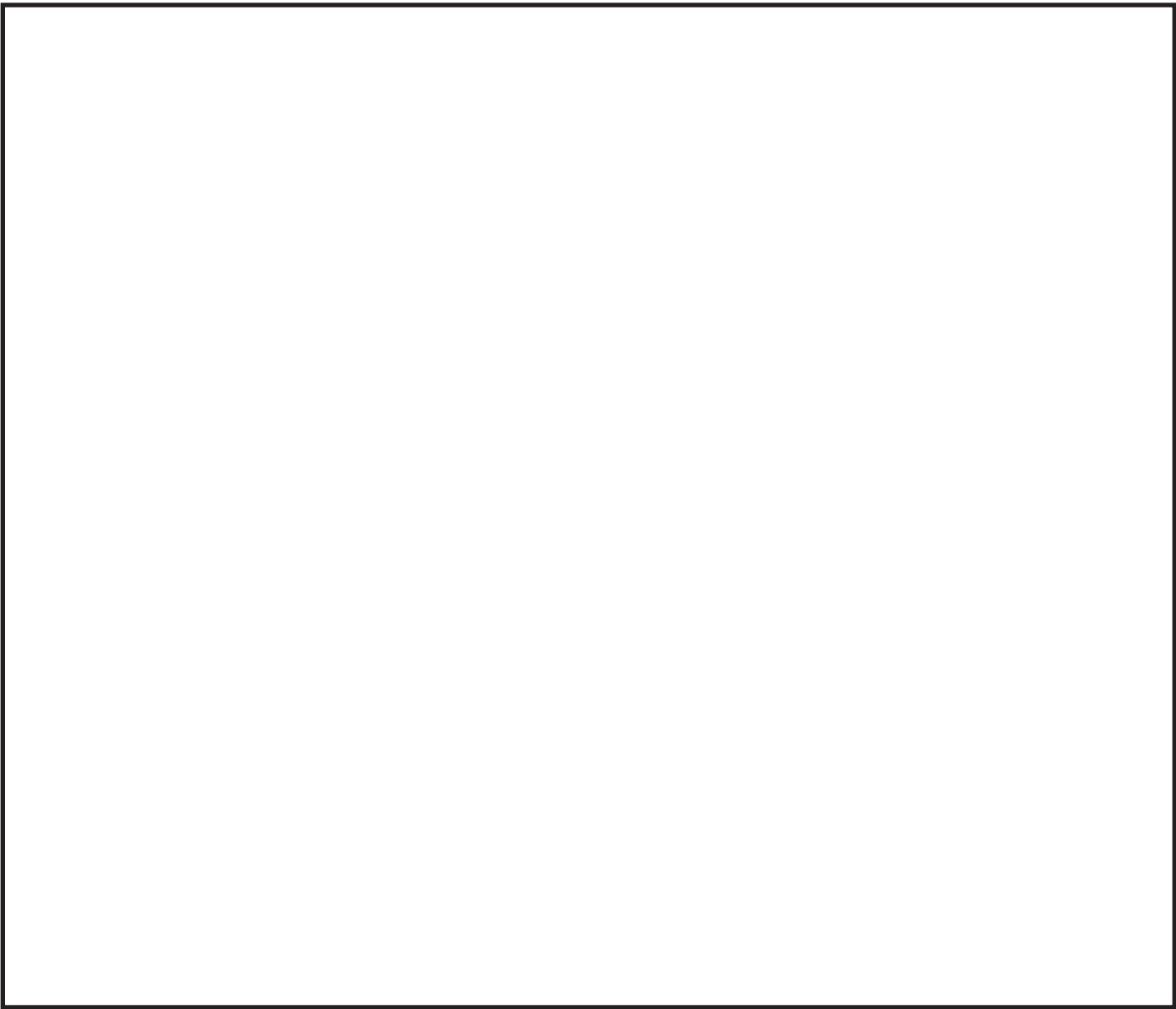
MEMBER

AP

The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL



By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is the owner of Positively Outrageous Results. They have consulted with over 400 businesses in 40 different industries. For better business results go to BizResults.biz to read previous articles.

Letters to the Editor

Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions. All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name, address and, if possible, fax or telephone number. Letters are edited for space, clarity and fairness.

CHABA

From Page 1



World

Life & Style

Santana speaks on politics, education

By ANTHONY BREZNICAN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Carlos Santana speaks about the world like a benevolent visitor from outside it.

His views may be romantic and idealistic, but the guitarist is sincere. He was honored as the Latin Grammys person of the year Monday for his dedication to education, the fight against AIDS and other social endeavors.

Santana, who won nine Grammys for his 1999 album "Supernatural," talked to The Associated Press about his political views, his upcoming CD and how to absorb accolades without arrogance.

AP: How do you endure a night of praise like being named Latin Grammy person of the year without letting it go to your head?

Santana: I've been repeating for a long time that I am a beam of light that comes from the mind of God. That allows me, the more I say it, to grasp that I'm more than Mexican, or a human being. I am more than American or all the labels that

we put on each other on this planet. Since I can definitely say that, like you, I am a beam of light that comes from the mind of God, then I don't have to squirm or interrupt people when they give me a compliment. I can say, "Thank you so much. And I'm very happy that my presence can bring joy into your life."

AP: You worked for free in 2003, donating the \$2 million in profits from the "Shaman" album tour to combat AIDS in Africa. What motivates your charity work?

Santana: I'm very grateful that I'm in a position to be of service and give back. The people who I adore the most are Doctors Without Borders and (Nobel Peace Prize winner) Mr. Desmond Tutu, people who just roll up their sleeves, they feed, heal or bury. They don't have offices and all these expensive cars. Whatever money you give them, it goes straight to medicine.

AP: Your Web site had a link encouraging people to vote. How do you feel about the American presidential race?

Santana: I don't really feel too good about asking anyone to vote at this time because I basically don't have faith in either one of the two parties. I would like it better if we had a woman president, seven of them, instead of one. ... American Indian, Mexican, Irish, African-American. We need seven women to really represent the United States more from an integrity perspective.

AP: What are your thoughts on world events, like the war in Iraq?

Santana: Peace has never come from dropping bombs. Real peace comes from enlightenment and educating people to behave more in a divine matter. I do envision a world where water, electricity, food and education would be for free in the next 25 years for everyone on this planet. That's the beginning of dismantling fear, anger and politics and religion. The real evil in this world is politics and religion. Spirituality is the antidote because it is free.

AP: Do you feel cynical about the state of America?

Santana: I think American

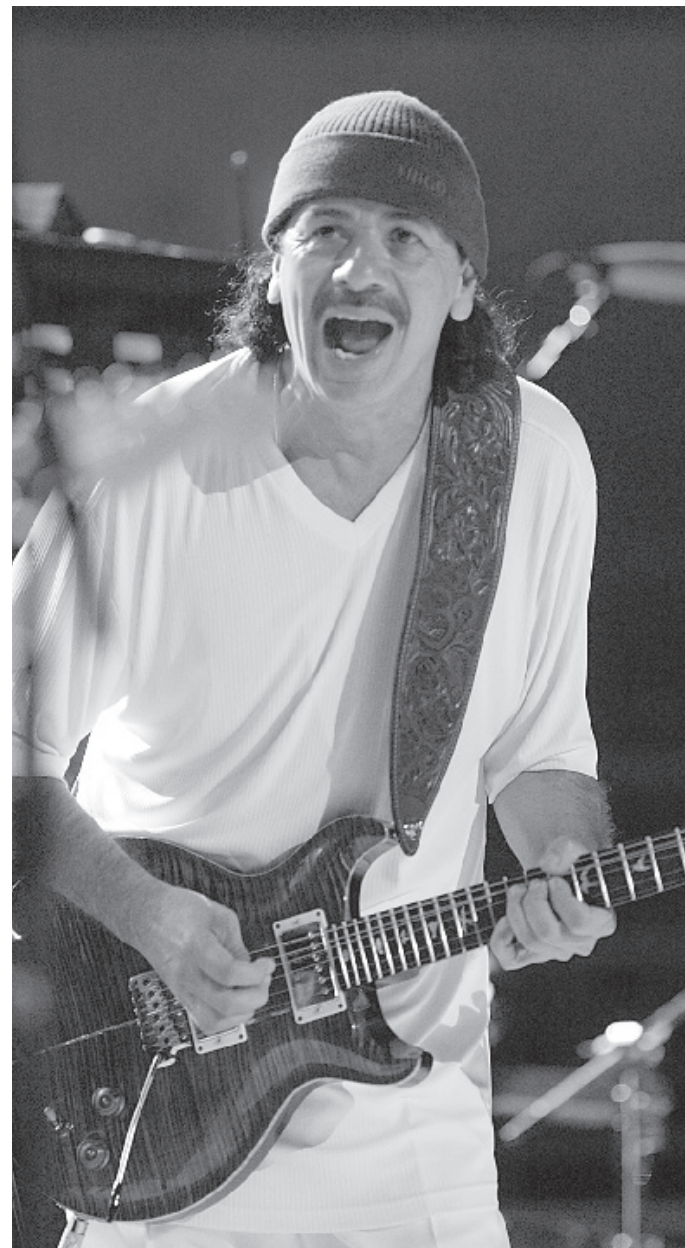
people are beautiful people, I think our government is not by the people, for the people and all that kind of stuff. It's a group of corporations ... who want to tell you how much insurance to buy for the things that they make you afraid of. I pay my taxes, I obey the law, but that's not who I'm accountable to. I'm accountable to a higher force. Therefore, people honor me—like this (Latin Grammy) award—because I'm not shucking and jiving, slipping and sliding ...

AP: Back to your music then, why did you release the 10-track CD "Food For Thought" through the Baja Fresh Mexican Grill restaurants?

Santana: Helping children. Baja was committed to helping children. (The profits for that disc went toward Santana's Milagro Foundation, which provides health and education to impoverished youth.)

AP: How far along are you on your next album?

Santana: I'm working on seven albums. I'm producing an album for Mr. Buddy Guy. I'm also working on the new Santana album, which I will turn into my friend and brother Mr. Clive Davis. There's a possibility of new people contributing, like Los Lonely Boys, possibly Sting, maybe Sean Paul ... I have an instrumental album that I'm due to release sometime. It's like seven to 10 things that I'm working on, but I'm not confused or scattered.



AP

Carlos Santana sings with the "Los Lonely Boys" band during a rehearsal before the fifth annual Latin Grammy Awards at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2004.

1st death anniversary

Rita's debut album gets 4 Latin nominees

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP)—Brazilian newcomer Maria Rita, one of Wednesday's leading Latin Grammy nominees, treats her family's rich musical legacy as a personal gold watch—a treasure to be guarded but not used as an up-to-date timepiece.

"There's a certain hysteria surrounding the fact that I'm the daughter of Elis Regina," says Rita. "But it stopped being a burden for me when I realized it's a projection of other people's desires."

Regina was a Brazilian pop music superstar often compared to Judy Garland or Edith Piaf. When Regina died at 36 in 1982, Rita was barely four (her father is Brazilian pianist/arranger Cesar Camargo Mariano).

Many fans hear Regina in Rita's self-titled debut, which has earned her four Latin Grammy nominations for record of the year ("A Festa"), album of the year, best new artist and best popular Brazilian album.

Slight, self-confident and steely, Rita began performing only two years ago.

"I tried other things first, in-

cluding the production side of the music business," she says, sipping wine at a cantina in her native city of Sao Paulo. "I wanted to make sure my motives were right."

She says of her decision to become a singer: "The first time I got up on stage to perform, I knew I was home."

"Maria Rita," backed by substantial publicity, sold 100,000 copies the first week of its release.

What fans heard, aside from a remote tangle of her mother's stylized delivery, was a mellow, jazzy sound that's a natural combination for the hushed shadows-and-light cadences of the Portuguese language.

To American ears, the sound is known as Brazilian jazz and features the classic accompaniment of piano, acoustic bass and drums.

"Some critics have drawn a comparison with Norah Jones," says Rita of the unlikely pop-jazz superstar. "But it's just a coincidence. I was not influenced by her."

Rita spent eight critical years growing up in the United States, first as a high school student

in Chatham, N.J., then as an undergraduate at New York University, where she earned degrees in communications and Latin American studies.

"My father went to the United States to expand his musical horizons," says Rita, who was also, subconsciously, was expanding her own.

In the New York-New Jersey nexus, Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Oscar Peterson and Nat King Cole shimmered across the radio waves.

"And, of course, I listened to George Michael, Stevie Wonder and Michael Jackson," she adds.

Rita could end up being the belle of the Latin Grammys. She tied veteran artists Alejandro Sanz and Bebo Valdes with her nominations, and a win in the major categories could boost her popularity even more.

Win or lose, she won't blow her cool. A month-old son, Antonio, with Brazilian movie director Marcus Baldini helps keep her balanced.

"My goal is not to be the Brazilian this or the next that ... I aim to be the Brazilian ME."

'The Passion' sells 2.4 million DVDs



Assistant manager Felicia Powers, left, and manager Chris McCormick organize orders for pre-sold copies of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" Monday, Aug. 30, 2004 at the LifeWay Christian Store in Tupelo, Miss.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The DVD of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" went on sale Tuesday and sold 2.4 million copies by midday.

"Just like there's no comparison for the film, there's no comparison for this performance," said Steve Feldstein, spokesman

for Fox Home Entertainment, which is distributing the DVD.

Total one-day sales figures for the movie were expected Wednesday.

"We think a lot of the consumers will be going in after work to pick it up," Feldstein said. "So the real question with

this movie is: how high is up?"

Just like in the theatrical marketing, churches and religious groups became active in trying to promote the DVD to their congregations, sometimes buying huge blocks of the film for sale to parishioners. Many were paid for well in advance and

picked up Tuesday.

Fox Home Entertainment reported that each customer bought an average of 1.8 copies of the film. Feldstein said he personally witnessed people buying as many as six copies, one for themselves, the others for gifts.

"Finding Nemo" holds the

record for one-day DVD sales with about 8 million, but it's unclear how that movie was selling by midday, said Scott Hettrick, editor in chief of DVD Exclusive magazine.

"This is really good, but it's really hard to do an apple to apple comparison," he said. "It's been less than a handful of movies that have done first-day sales reporting."

He said "The Passion" is on track to sell as well as other Hollywood blockbusters like "Spider-Man" and "The Lord of the Rings" movies, which topped out between 15 million and 18 million total DVD sales.

"The Passion," starring Jim Caviezel as Jesus, became one of the year's biggest blockbust-

ers, earning a place among the top 10 highest-grossing movies of all time with more than \$370 million at the North American box office. (It eventually fell to No. 2 for the year behind "Shrek 2," which has earned \$436.7 million.)

Gibson's film was also one of the most controversial movies in years. Besides its violent depiction of the crucifixion, some Jewish organizations complained it might spark a rise in anti-Semitism by blaming ancient Jewish people for killing Christ.

Filmed in Aramaic and Latin, the movie was sold with English subtitles on VHS for \$24.98, and English and Spanish subtitles on DVD for \$29.98.

Venice Film Festival seeks own identity

ROME (AP)—The Venice Film Festival is grappling with its perennial tag as the No. 2 movie extravaganza in Europe—still a little brother to Cannes in terms of stars, marketing and buzz, even though it's older.

The 61st edition begins Wednesday. But it remains caught between the desire to be cutting-edge and the need for glitz. The result: heavy doses of both.

The opening gala features "The Terminal," with Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks on hand. Later, Nicole Kidman will shimmer in with her reincarnation picture, "Birth." And big fish Robert De Niro, Angelina Jolie and Will Smith are promoting voiceovers for the animated "Shrek 2."

Away from the flashbulbs, 21 pictures will battle it out in darkened screening rooms for the Golden Lion awards. The competitors are a varied bunch.

"The Others" director Alejandro Amenabar presents "Mar Adentro," a true story about a paralyzed Spaniard's attempts to end his life. Mira Nair's adaptation of Thackeray's 19th century novel "Vanity Fair" features Reese Witherspoon as

the memorable Becky Sharp. Mike Leigh offers another intense social drama in "Vera Drake," about an abortionist in 1950s England.

Other top contenders: "Promised Land," by Amos Gitai; Todd Solondz's "Palindromes"; Wim Wenders' "Land of Plenty"; "L'Intrus" by Claire Denis; Gianni Amelio's "Le Chiavi di Casa"; and "Howl's Moving Castle," an animated work by Hayo Miyazaki.

Out-of-competition pictures include a heap of attention-grabbing U.S. fare including Jonathan Demme's remake of "The Manchurian Candidate"; Spike Lee's "She Hate Me" (he's also on the awards jury); Gregg Araki's "Mysterious Skin"; and "Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow" with Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow and Jolie.

Big non-American productions include the three-director picture "Eros," made by Michelangelo Antonioni, Steven Soderbergh and Wong Kar-wai, as well as a British-Italian version of Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice," starring Al Pacino as Shylock.

One new element this year

is the festival's director, Marco Muller, who took over after the ouster of Moritz de Hadeln, an outspoken boss who candidly acknowledged that the Venice Film Festival had slipped in stature.

Muller, an Italian movie producer who previously headed smaller festivals, is already facing questions about the place of his festival. He insists that Venice isn't struggling to catch up with Cannes.

"But if Venice wants to steadily hold its own as one of the two great European and world festivals, it cannot but look at Cannes - a festival that in the past looked at the model of Venice but then has been able to count on many more resources to experiment with new solutions," he recently told the ANSA news agency.

Among Muller's decisions: requiring black tie at evening gala screenings to raise the festival's elegance level.

Unfortunately, the opening-gala choice of "The Terminal"—which opened more than two months ago in the United States to mixed reviews—is unlikely to provide the dynamite kickoff the festival could

use. Venice will have to count on the later flood of stars and its diverse list of films.

Among these are hundreds of smaller pictures playing at sites around Venice's Lido, the little island where the festival is held off the center of the canal city. Retrospectives will also fill up Lido screens, including one on old Italian B-movies co-presented by Quentin Tarantino.

Another sideline is the presentation of honorary Italian citizenship to De Niro. An Italian-American organization tried to get this honor canceled, saying he had projected a bad image with his roles as a thug. The Italian Culture Ministry rejected the protest.

Also to be honored are "Singing in the Rain" co-director Stanley Donen and veteran filmmaker Manoel de Oliveira, who will each receive lifetime achievement awards.

The nine-person jury that gives out the Golden Lions is headed by director John Boorman and includes Lee, actresses Scarlett Johansson and Helen Mirren, among others. The awards will be handed out Sept. 11 at a ceremony hosted by Sophia Loren.

wallace

Female stars gather to urge women to vote

NEW YORK (AP)—Vanessa Carlton, Rosario Dawson and Susan Sarandon will participate in an event aimed at getting young, single women to vote in the upcoming presidential election.

The Sept. 13 event will feature entertainment and talks on feminism, politics and civic transformation. It is sponsored by three organizations that promote women's issues and voting: V-Day, Rock the

Vote, and Vote, Run, Lead.

Julia Stiles, Isabella Rossellini and Gloria Steinem are also slated to attend.

"With 65% of women making up the majority of undecided voters, this event is a

rallying call to activists nationwide that we must do everything we can to ensure that all women make their voices heard," said Marie Wilson, president of the White House Project, an activist group.

Path to good health starts with small steps every day

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I know you care passionately about individuals taking steps each day to improve the quality of their lives. Please help me spread the word about improving the health of millions of Americans.

Nearly two out of three Americans are overweight/obese and at risk for diabetes, heart disease and other illnesses associated with obesity. Recent studies from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that overweight and obesity may soon surpass tobacco as the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. People need to know that conquering weight gain is more about taking a daily walk around the neighborhood than running a marathon.

Please encourage your readers to see for themselves how small steps can lead to big health benefits. Taking the stairs instead of the escalator, substituting fruit for sweets, and eating only half portions of dessert can add up to giant steps on the path to a healthier life.

Earlier this year, we introduced a program and Web site called Healthy Lifestyles to help individuals and families make healthy choices about their diets and physical activity. The site, www.smallstep.gov, provides hundreds of simple suggested steps to get people started.

TOMMY G. THOMPSON, SECRETARY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DEAR SECRETARY THOMPSON: You're right, mail on the subject of obesity does cross my desk. I'm pleased to promote your campaign because I want to do my part in helping my readers help themselves to longer, healthier lives.

It's interesting that you mentioned "steps" to better health, because coincidentally, I received the following a few days before your letter came:

DEAR ABBY: When I hit the scale at 250-plus, my blood sugar shot up and I knew it was finally time to take action. I had read an article about walking 10,000 steps a day and decided to try it. It changed my life.

At first I couldn't walk more than 6,000 steps without hurting all over. It was discouraging, but it was my last hope, so I cut back to a more manageable number of steps and increased gradually—by about 500 steps a week. After three months, I was finally up to 10,000 steps a day.

I lost a pant size in three months, but there were more benefits: My appetite changed. I enjoy salads, vegetables, fresh fruit, lean meat. I began to discern the difference between being full and being satisfied. I stopped craving food between meals.

It has now been a year, and I have lost more than 40 pounds and increased to 11,000 steps a day. My blood sugar and blood pressure have normalized.

Please, Abby, encourage your readers to check out a 10,000-step program. Information is readily available on the Internet—just type "10,000 steps" into your browser. The only cost is a good pair of walking shoes and a pedometer.

LEANER AND HEALTHIER IN NEW YORK

DEAR L AND H: Congratulations for your progress and thanks for sharing your secret. When it comes to exercise, sometimes the hardest step to take is that first one.

Now, I have a favor to ask of Secretary Thompson. Please do Americans a favor and issue government guidelines about what "low carb" means. Too many people are bingeing on "low-carb" products in the belief they can eat unlimited amounts and still lose weight. Some of those products contain more carbs in one serving than a dieter should consume in an entire day, and too much fat as well.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$10 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)



Dear Abby

Actress Theron hurt on Germany film set

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Oscar-winning actress Charlize Theron was injured while shooting her new Paramount film, "Aeon Flux," in Germany, but her representatives aren't saying how badly she was hurt.

Theron suffered the unspecified injury while doing her own stunts in a wire-hanging action sequence, the movie's publicist, Jeanmarie Carrasco, told The Associated Press Tuesday.

"No cuts, no broken bones," Carrasco said. "I think it was something less tangible than that....Something vague and nagging."

No one else was hurt, Carrasco added.

Filming in Berlin has been halted for several weeks to allow Theron to recover. It wasn't known if the injury would require script changes or when the movie would resume production.

Theron's publicist said the 29-year-old actress wasn't hospitalized.

"She did sustain an injury on the set. It's a very physically demanding role," said Theron publicist Amanda Silverman.

"Aeon Flux" is set centuries in the future at a time when a plague has wiped out most of the population. Theron plays the title character, a sleek, sexy commando who is part of a rebellion against the remaining government.

The "Aeon Flux" story was once depicted in a series of animated shorts on MTV.

Theron, who won an Academy Award for her role in "Monster," stars in "Head in the Clouds," set for release Sept. 17. She follows up her best-actress Oscar as a French socialite living it up on the eve of World War II.



South African Oscar winner Charlize Theron, holds a small piece of gold engraved in rock, which has the inscription: "Presented to Charlize Theron, our South African star, by President Thabo Mbeki" at the Presidential Guest House in Pretoria, South Africa, Monday, March 8, 2004.

AP

Khan off-key due to strained vocal chords

NEW YORK (AP)—If you thought Chaka Khan sounded a bit off-key during her performance with rapper Kanye West at the MTV Video Music Awards, you were right.

The R&B diva is blaming strained vocal chords for her screeching performance at Sunday's awards show in Miami.

A statement released Tuesday by her publicist, Brit Reece of PMK/HBH, said Khan had to cancel a

performance in Park City, Utah, Friday night because her voice was strained and she was under doctors' orders not to perform.

However, she "received a cortisone shot just hours prior to her VMA performance to honor her commitment to Kanye West."

Reece said the shot helped her a bit, but she still struggled through the performance of "Through the Wire," which contains a sample of Khan's old

hit, "Through the Fire."

Reece said Khan's voice has been strained because of intense recording for an upcoming album due out in October.

For now, Khan is resting her voice, not speaking.

"She's supposed to perform this weekend in the Bahamas, and as of now she is going to do it," Reece told The Associated Press. "She's resting her chords completely this week."

Govt sponsors 'Macbeth' on military bases

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pentagon money is sending a stage play about a military hero who murders his commander in chief on a tour of 13 military bases.

The work is William Shakespeare's "Macbeth," a tale familiar of witchcraft, treachery, deceit, insanity and violence.

A classic Shakespearean tragedy, the title character inevitably meets an ignominious end, slain in battle by a fellow nobleman who restores Scotland's crown to the rightful ruler.

The tour's first performance is Friday at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala.

"Macbeth" deals with the issues confronting military leadership today—what happens when the greatest warrior a country has decided that he would be king at any price?" said Kent Thompson, artistic director of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, which produced the play and is taking it on tour. "It's also a fascinating study in the self-creation of a tyrant."



Soledad O'Brien is photographed on Aug. 2, 1996 in San Francisco.

AP

O'Brien gives birth to twin boys

NEW YORK (AP)—Soledad O'Brien's American mornings will be getting a lot more bleary-eyed. The CNN anchor, co-host of "American Morning" with Bill Hemmer, gave birth to twin boys Monday.

Charlie was born at 6:23 p.m.

and Jackson came four minutes later. Jackson, at 7 pounds, 2 ounces, outweighed his brother by an ounce.

O'Brien, 37, and her husband, Brad Raymond, have two daughters: Sofia, 4, and Cecilia, 2. They live in New York City.

Noted architect Jones dies at 83

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Architect E. Fay Jones, a student of Frank Lloyd Wright whose glass-and-wood Thomcrowne Chapel was honored as the nation's top design of the 1980s, has died. He was 83.

Jones died at his home in Fayetteville on Monday, according to the University of Arkansas, where Jones studied and taught. He had suffered from Parkinson's disease.

Jones, who built his career on subtle interaction between his buildings and nature, has said he designed homes to make living in that space feel special.

"You like to think man and nature plan and merge everything to mutual benefit," Jones told The Associated Press in March. "You try to use a natural thing to enhance the thing you place there. You try to have living there be special."

Jones designed residences, chapels and commercial buildings that can be found in 20 states.

Thomcrowne Chapel, which rises 48 feet high in the woods in northwest Arkansas, has 6,000 panes of glass forming 425 windows. The building was honored as the American Institute of Architecture's Design of the Decade for the 1980s, ahead of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and the World Financial Center in New York.

Jones, who grew up in El Dorado, studied at Wright's Taliesin compound in Wisconsin.

Pastimes



